

XIV.—*Descriptions of fourteen new Species of Birds discovered by Mr. F. J. Jackson in Eastern Africa.* By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.Z.S., F.L.S.

DURING his recent journey to Uganda Mr. Jackson ascended Mount Elgon*, which lies north of the eastern extremity of Victoria Nyanza, and traversed other districts previously unexplored by naturalists. Mr. Jackson made a very fine collection of birds, amongst which a preliminary examination enables me to discriminate fourteen new species. Of these I now give short descriptions, and I hope to be able to give a full account of Mr. Jackson's collections in a future number of 'The Ibis.'

1. SYCOBROTUS INSIGNIS, sp. n.

Black and yellow: entire back, from the hind neck to the upper tail-coverts, yellow; the latter as well as the scapulars black, washed with yellow; crown and sides of head, chin, and sides of throat black; rest of under surface golden yellow; under tail-coverts a little more orange; wings and tail black; under wing-coverts white. Total length 5·7 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 3·25, tail 1·9, tarsus 0·75.

Hab. Mount Elgon.

This is an entirely new species, quite unlike any of the others, by reason of its yellow back.

2. HETERHYPHANTES STEPHANOPHORUS, sp. n.

Entirely black above and below, excepting the forehead and centre of crown, the eyebrows, sides of face, ear-coverts, and hinder cheeks, which are orange-yellow; the sides of the face are almost entirely orange, excepting the base of the cheeks, the lores, and a broad streak through the eye: bill black; legs horn-blue; iris crimson-brown. Total length 5·7 inches, culmen 0·75, wing 3·05, tail 2·1, tarsus 0·85.

Hab. Mau.

This new species of Weaver-bird is closely allied to *H. melanogaster* from the Cameroons (*cf.* Cat. B. xiii. p. 417), but is at once distinguished by its black throat.

* See the map in Thomson's 'Masai-Land.'

3. *NIGRITA SCHISTACEA*, sp. n.

Female. Dark ashy grey above, lighter grey on the lower back and rump; wings and tail black, with tiny spots of white on the wing-coverts; forehead, eyebrows, sides of face, and entire under surface of body black; axillaries and under wing-coverts white; between the black of the forehead and the grey of the hinder crown and neck runs a narrow line of white: bill black; legs brown; iris yellow. Total length 5·3 inches, culmen 0·45, wing 2·65, tail 1·95, tarsus 0·7.

Hab. Sotik.

Allied to *N. emilie* of Sharpe, but rather larger and much darker, the back being dark slaty grey instead of pearly grey; consequently the white line which borders the black forehead is very much more distinct.

4. *CRITHAGRA ALBIFRONS*, sp. n.

Male. Olive-brown, with whitish margins to the wing-coverts and inner secondaries; wing-feathers and tail-feathers dark brown, edged with olive-yellow; a spot of white on each side of the base of the bill, forming together a band across the base of the forehead; ear-coverts dusky brown, as well as the cheeks and chin; a whitish patch on the fore part of the ear-coverts; throat dull whitish, spotted with black; lower throat and breast dull brown; flanks dull brown, with darker brown stripes; lower breast and abdomen pale ashy fulvous, as well as the under tail-coverts; under wing-coverts and axillaries olive-yellow: bill dusky horn-colour; legs brown; iris brown. Total length 6·2 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 3·2, tail 2·55, tarsus 0·8.

Hab. Kikuyu.

This is a representative form of *C. burtoni* of the Cameroons, but it is a smaller bird, has a white patch on the ear-coverts, the lower throat whitish spotted with black, and is further distinguished by the narrow brown stripes on the sides of the body.

5. *XENOCICHLA KIKUYUENSIS*, sp. n.

Olive-green: wings and tail the same colour; head, nape, and sides of neck slaty grey; sides of face and entire throat

clearer slaty grey, with a white line above the eye, a whitish freckling below the eye, and having the ear-coverts distinctly streaked with white; breast and sides of body olive-yellow, bright yellow in the centre of the breast and abdomen. Total length 7·5 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 3·6, tail 3·3, tarsus 0·95.

Hab. Kikuyu.

A representative of another Cameroons form, *X. tephrolæma* of Gray, but differing in its much smaller bill, purer grey head and throat, and in the white streaks to the ear-coverts.

6. *HIRUNDO ARCTICINCTA*, sp. n.

Glossy blue above, with a chestnut forehead and rufous throat; sides of face and a narrow line encircling the throat blue like the back; rest of under surface brown, with the centre of the breast and abdomen white; under tail-coverts brown, tipped with white; tail-feathers with large white mark on all but the centre ones. Total length 5·8 inches, culmen 0·4, wing 4·75, tail 2·7, tarsus 0·4.

Hab. Mount Elgon, alt. 7000 ft.

This Swallow is a representative form of *H. angolensis*, from which it differs in having the centre of the breast and abdomen white, and in having the under tail-coverts brown, broadly edged with pure white, instead of brown or brownish white.

7. *APALIS PULCHRA*, sp. n.

Grey above; tail black, outer feathers all broadly tipped with white; throat and breast white; across the chest a broad black collar; sides of body bright rufous. Total length 5·5 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 2·25, tail 2·5, tarsus 0·9.

Hab. Mount Elgon, in thick forest.

This species seems to have no near ally in the genus *Apalis*, its rufous flanks, grey head, and black pectoral collar distinguishing it from all the other members of the genus.

8. *APALIS JACKSONI*, sp. n.

Male. Olive-yellow above: wings grey; primaries black edged with white, broader on the secondaries, so as to form a streak down the wing; upper tail-coverts and tail dark grey,

all the feathers tipped with white, increasing in extent towards the outer feather, of which it occupies the greater part of the outer web as well; head slaty grey; lores, sides of face, and ear-coverts black, followed by a broad moustachial streak of white along the cheeks; throat black; fore neck and breast bright yellow, tinged with green on the sides of the body; thighs grey; under tail-coverts white; under wing-coverts white, washed with yellow. Total length 5·4 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 2·2, tail 2·55, tarsus 0·8.

Hab. Mount Elgon.

I have allowed this bird to stand in the genus *Apalis*, but I am not sure that *A. pulchra* is congeneric with it. For the present, however, I propose to retain this very handsome new species in the neighbourhood of *Apalis thoracica*. Its black throat and white moustache render it easily recognizable.

9. *EUPRINODES CINEREUS*, sp. n.

Male. Slaty grey, a trifle browner on the head; wing-coverts like the back; quills blackish, externally slaty grey; tail-feathers grey, the three outer feathers white, with the exception of a blackish base to the inner web, the fourth with a wedge-shaped mark of white; under surface of body white, with a tinge of buff on the chest and sides of body. Total length 5·5 inches, culmen 0·55, wing 2·25, tail 2·5, tarsus 0·75.

Hab. Mount Elgon.

This species appears to me to have no very near ally. It is larger than *E. olivaceus*, and has the upper surface grey instead of olive-green.

10. *SYLVIELLA LEUCOPHRYS*, sp. n.

Female. Above dull olive; crown dark chestnut with a broad lateral band of white over each eye, confining a narrow frontal streak of dark chestnut; wings and tail dusky brown, edged with bright olive-yellow, the edge of the wing bright yellow; sides of face, throat, and underparts white; a streak of chestnut through the eye; the sides of the body ashy grey; under tail-coverts bright yellow, as well as the

under wing-coverts. Total length 3·4 inches, culmen 0·45, wing 2·3, tail 1·0, tarsus 0·75.

Hab. Mount Elgon.

The nearest ally to this new species is probably *S. ruficapilla* of Bocage, but the broad white superciliary line at once distinguishes it.

11. *TROCHOCERCUS ALBONOTATUS*, sp. n.

Above slate-colour, with a black crest; wings like the back, the quill-feathers more dusky; tail-feathers blackish, the outer ones with broad white tips; under surface dark slate-colour, the lower breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts white. Total length 5·6 inches, culmen 0·45, wing 2·4, tail 2·75, tarsus 0·6.

Hab. Mount Elgon.

This seems to be a very distinct species of *Trochocercus*, nearly allied to *T. cyanomelas*, but differing in the absence of the white patch on the wings, and in having the tail-feathers tipped with white.

12. *GRAUCALUS PURUS*, sp. n.

Male. Pearly grey: wings rather darker; primaries black, edged with grey like the back; tail blackish; base of forehead, lores, and fore part of cheeks black; crown of head lighter grey than the back; all the region of the eye hoary white; entire under surface of body slaty grey. Total length 9 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 4·8, tail 3·5, tarsus 0·85.

Female. Similar to the male, but lacking the black on the lores. Total length 9·5 inches, culmen 0·75, wing 4·7, tail 3·7, tarsus 0·85.

Hab. Mount Elgon.

This Cuckoo-Shrike is a small representative of *Graucalus caesi* of South Africa. If there had been any truth in the latter species having been got in Quamamil by Prince Paul of Würtemberg (*cf.* Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. i. p. 420), we might have expected that it would have been found to be a hen of *G. purus*; but Dr. Hartlaub has already pointed out that Heuglin's description of the female agrees absolutely with the South-African bird, and there is no doubt that

Hartlaub is right. The primaries are distinctly stated to be "anguste albido marginatis;" and this is the character of *G. cæsius*, for in *G. purus* the quills are externally slaty grey like the back.

13. *GYMNOBUCCO CINEREICEPS*, sp. n.

Brown above and beneath, with paler brown margins to the feathers; wing-feathers brown; tail blackish; head entirely dark slaty grey; throat lighter ashy grey, as well as the sides of the neck; two frontal tufts of dark sandy colour; the forehead streaked with straw-yellow. Total length 7 inches, culmen 0·85, wing 4, tail 2·4, tarsus 0·9.

Hab. Mount Elgon.

This species differs from the true *G. bonapartii* in its much larger size and grey head and neck. I think that Mr. Bohndorff's skin from Sassa in the British Museum is probably referable to *G. cinereiceps*, but the specimen is young and difficult to determine.

14. *TRACHYPHONUS ELGONENSIS*, sp. n.

Purplish black: wings and tail black, with a large white patch on the inner wing-coverts; forehead and crown dark crimson, continued down the sides of the neck; ear-coverts and cheeks black, washed with crimson; throat and fore neck black, each feather tipped with ashy grey; breast and abdomen bright lemon-yellow, separated from the spotted throat by a band of bright crimson; sides of body black, largely spotted with yellow; under wing-coverts white. Total length 9 inches, culmen 0·9, wing 4, tail 3·8, tarsus 1·05.

Hab. Mount Elgon.

This is very closely allied to *T. purpuratus* of Gaboon, but nevertheless appears to be worthy of distinction, as it is smaller, with a much smaller bill, and has a much brighter crimson wash on the forehead: the crimson border to the black of the sides of the neck and throat is also very much brighter than in the Gaboon species.